

Message Text

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EXDIS FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEATED CAIRO 17576 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO LONDON JIDDA JUL 24.

QUOTE: CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 17576

EXDIS

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR EG SO ET
SUBJECT: SADAT COMMENTS ON AFRICAN SITUATION

1. IN MEETING WITH SADAT TODAY, I ASKED ABOUT HIS
RECENT ATTENDANCE AT OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM. SADAT
SAID MEETING HAD BEEN USEFUL, BUT GAVE NO DETAILS.
INSTEAD, HE IMMEDIATELY FOCUSED ON HIS CONCERN ABOUT
RECENT AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS.

2. THE SITUATION IN AFRICA, SADAT ASSERTED WITH GREAT
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EARNESTNESS, "IS VERY ALARMING FOR YOUR FRIENDS THERE".
PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE'S POSITION IS ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT.
THE ETHIOPIANS ARE BOMBING SOMALI BORDER VILLAGES. AS
WE KNEW, SADAT IS SENDING GENERAL GAMASY TO SOMALIA TO
STUDY THE SITUATION. SOME EGYPTIAN MISSILE CREWS WILL
ALSO BE SENT.

3. AT THE OAU SUMMIT, SOVIET AND CUBAN SUPPORTED AFRICAN LEADERS (UNNAMED) HAD "RAISED THEIR VOICES IN IMPERTINENT AND SELF-ASSURED MANNER". THEY HAD SOUGHT TO DOMINATE THE MODERATES. HAD MEETING NOT BEEN HELD IN KHARTOUM, A MODERATE STATE, THE RESULTS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EVEN WORSE. EGYPT AND OTHER MODERATE STATES DID THEIR BEST TO TONE DOWN THE RESOLUTIONS.

4. SADAT THEN RECALLED THAT HE HAD MET WITH NYERERE IN KHARTOUM. THE LATTER HAD PASSED THROUGH ADDIS ENROUTE TO KHARTOUM AND HAD DISCUSSED THE ERITREAN PROBLEM WITH MENGISTU. NYERERE HAD TOLD MENGISTU, THE CUBANS AND THE SOVIETS THAT ERITREA IS NOT THE OGADEN. NEITHER THE SOVIETS NOR THE CUBANS SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED MILITARILY. THE CUBANS HAD IMMEDIATELY AGREED, BUT THE SOVIETS HAD DELAYED REPLYING. NYERERE HAD THEN BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE UNITED STATES, AFTER WHICH THE SOVIETS RESPONDED THAT THEY ALSO AGREE NO SOVIET INVOLVEMENT SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN ERITREA. NYERERE HAD PROPOSED TO MENGISTU A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, ONE INVOLVING AUTONOMY IN THE ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL ENTITY. MENGISTU HAD EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN OVER THE EGYPTIAN AND SUDANESE POSITIONS.

5. SADAT HAD AUTHORIZED NYERERE TO INFORM MENGISTU THAT GOE IS ALSO FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE ERITREAN

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PROBLEM. THE PARTIES CAN MEET IN CAIRO, DAR ES SALAAM OR ANY OTHER PLACE TO WORK THIS OUT. NYERERE SHOULD INFORM MENGISTU THAT EGYPT PLANS TO SEND SOME MISSILE CREWS TO ASSIST IN THE SOMALI AIR DEFENSE EFFORT. THEIR PURPOSE IS NOT TO INVADE ETHIOPIA, BUT TO DEFEND THE SOMALI VILLAGES THAT THE ETHIOPIANS ARE BOMBING.

6. SADAT RECALLED THAT HE HAD AGREED WITH SIAD THAT SOMALIA WOULD ASSERT NO CLAIM TO THE OGADEN OR KENYA, BUT SIAD MUST BE ALLOWED TO SAVE HIS FACE. SADAT COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY, AS SIAD HAD TOLD HIM, WE ARE NOW DELAYING SENDING THE MILITARY SURVEY TEAM. "YOUR FRIENDS ARE SUFFERING", SADAT SAID. "YOU DO NOTHING AND THE SOVIETS PROVIDE THEIR FRIENDS WITH MASSIVE ARMS."

7. I DISPUTED HIS DESCRIPTION. ALLUDING TO SOMALIA, I ASSURED SADAT THAT WE WANT TO HELP SIAD AND HAVE COMMITTED OURSELVES SO DO SO. IT BECOMES DIFFICULT FOR US, HOWEVER, WHEN WE DISCOVER THAT SIAD CONTINUES ACTIVELY TO AID THE OGADEN INSURGENTS. PERHAPS IF SIAD STOPPED THESE ACTIVITIES, WHICH RUN COUNTER TO THE COMMITMENTS THAT HE HAD MADE TO US, THE ETHIOPIAN

BOMBING ATTACKS ON THE SOMALI BORDER VILLAGES WOULD CEASE. AS SADAT DOUBTLESS KNEW, BOTH KENYA AND ETHIOPIA CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT SIAD'S INTENTIONS.

8. SADAT DISMISSED THIS ESTIMATE. SIAD, HE INSISTED, SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO SAVE HIS FACE. OTHERWISE HE WILL BE OVERTHROWN. SIAD CANNOT IMMEDIATELY STOP HIS ASSISTANCE TO THE OGADEN INSURGENTS, WHO ARE ETHNIC SOMALI KINSMEN. WERE HE TO DO SO, HE WOULD BE OVERTHROWN. SIAD CAN GRADUALLY PHASE OUT HIS HELP TO THE OGADEN INSURGENTS, BUT CANNOT DO SO AT ONCE.

9. SADAT AGAIN MADE A STRONG APPEAL THAT USG GO THROUGH WITH ITS PROMISE OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA. THROUGH SUCH ACTIVE ASSISTANCE, HE ARGUED, CONFIDENTIAL

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WE CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY INFLUENCE SIAD TO REDUCE AND EVENTUALLY CEASE SOMALI SUPPORT FOR THE OGADEN INSURGENTS. EILTS

UNQUOTE VANCE

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